

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-30

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R 120850Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3766

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COMUSSAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 12362

EXDIS

SECSTATE ALSO PASS ACTION SECDEF AND CJCS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CB

SUBJECT: DRY SEASON INVESTMENT PACKAGE AND FANK ADMINISTRATION
PROBLEM

1. IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE SOME FURTHER GROUND ON THE
FANK'S DISCIPLINARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS, I
GAVE LON NOL THIS MORNING NOVEMBER 12 THE FOLLOWING
LETTER (INFORMAL TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH).

2. QTE MR. PRESIDENT:

QTE IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FORMULATED BY YOU
AND BY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, I HAVE THE HONOR TO
INFORM YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO GRANT
ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE SO THAT THE REPUBLIC
MAY WAGE A SUCCESSFUL DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN. THE
ADDITIONAL AID CONSISTSHUF:

(A) THREE TROOPS OF M-113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS:

(B) EIGHT ARMORED CRAFT FOR THE MEKONG;

(C) HEADQUARTERS PACKAGES FOR TWO ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS, TO
INCLUDE TWO BATTERIES OF 155 HOWITZERS;

(D) ADDITIONAL STOCKS OF MUNITIONS;

(C) COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

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QTE THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BEGIN TO ARRIVE IN DECEMBER. GENERAL CLELAND WILL CONCENTRATE WITH GENERAL SOSTHENE ON THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS, WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE RAPID CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MUNITIONS DEPOT, THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW MAINTENANCE CENTER FOR M-113S, TRAINING OF SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL, ETC. OF COURSE THE EQUIPMENT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRIORITIES ALREADY ESTABLISHED.

QTE SO THAT THE FANK MAY TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS EQUIPMENT, AND SO THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CAN JUSTIFY BEFORE CONGRESS THIS NEW AND EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE, I ASK YOU TO ACCOMPLISH THREE GENERAL ACTIONS:

(A) HAVE JUDGED AND PUNISHED IN AN EXEMPLARY AND STRIKING MANNER YIN KHENG, IM SAMUT, AND OTHER ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION AND OF TRAFFICKING WITH THE ENEMY. IF YOU DO NOT DO SO RAPIDLY, PEOPLE WILL THINK THAT THEY CAN STEAL WITH IMPUNITY, AND FANK WILL BE VULNERABLE TO THE WORST ACCUSATIONS OF COMPLICITY.

(B) INSIST ON THE FULL APPLICATION OF THE NEW PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEMS. AS THE ADJOINING LETTERS INDICATE, EXAGGERATED REPORTS OF FORCE LEVELS, FLAGRANT DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN PAYROLLS AND PERSONNEL ROLLS, AND INADMISSIBLE INTERFERENCE BY SUPERIOR OFFICERS ARE STILL VERY WIDESPREAD. FOR THE NEW SYSTEMS TO SUCCEED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY THAT YOU ENDORSE THEM WITH YOUR PRESTIGE AND WITH YOUR AUTHORITY, THAT YOU REQUIRE THAT THE ENTIRE ARMY EXECUTE RAPIDLY AND FAITHFULLY THE DIRECTIVES OF THE ASSISTANT CHARGED WITH PERSONNEL AND OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, AND THAT YOU BE READY TO PUNISH SEVERELY OFFICERS OF ANY RANK WHO HENCEFORTH ARE GUILTY OF PAYROLL PADDING. GENERAL CLELAND WILL PROPOSE THE DRAFT OF A NOTE DE SERVICE TO ASSIST YOU IN ACCOMPLISHING THESE ENDS, WHICH HE WILL PRESENT TO GENERAL SOSTHENE.

(C) CARRY THROUGH THE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN. THE BEGINNING HAS BEEN ADEQUATE, BUT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL TO DO TO REACH THE GOAL OF 30,000 NEW VOLUNTEERS WELL TRAINED AND INTEGRATED INTO THE INTERVENTION UNITS. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY THE AVERAGE DAILY OUT TURN OF 225 RECRUITS; SANCTIONS WILL BE NEEDED, AND PERHAPS MODIFICATIONS IN THE EXEMPTIONS AND REINFORCEMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL

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ADMINISTRATION.

QTE PLEASE BE SO KIND AS TO INFORM ME IF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE AND WILL BE SATISFIED IN GOOD TIME SO THAT I MAY INFORM MY AUTHORITIES. UNQTE.

3. LON NOL PROMISED TO STUDY THE LETTER BUT INDICATED THAT HE BELIEVED HE CAN ACCEPT THESE REQUIREMENTS.

I AM DISTRIBUTING THE LETTER ALSO TO THE OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, TO DEFENSE MINISTER
MAJGEN THAPPANA NGINN, AND TO FANK CINC MAJGEN
SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, AND WILL FOLLOW UP.
ENDERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND CJCS.

SECRET

NNN

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